## THE YORK COUNTY SCHOOL DIVISION

DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT Steven R. Staples, Ed. D.



## YORK COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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May 9, 2002

Mr. James O. McReynolds County Administrator County of York P. O. Box 532 Yorktown, VA 23690

Dear Mac:

As you are aware, the School Board has been working with Congresswoman Davis and Senator Warner on federal funding specifically for Phase II of the Bethel Manor Elementary Addition/Renovation project (hereafter "project"). The cost of Phase II is estimated at \$1,500,000. The funds for the project were not appropriated in the federal FY02 budget. Whether the funds will be appropriated in the FY03 budget remains to be seen. However, the prospect for federal funding specific for this project appears a less likely option at this time.

The bid opening for Phase I of the project is scheduled for May 22, 2002. An add alternate was included in the Invitation for Bid for Phase II of the project. The add alternate allows the School Board to award Phase II of the contract within 60 days of the date of the bid opening.

Awarding Phase II of the project within 60 days of the bid opening has several significant cost advantages to the School Division. First, delaying Phase II of the project will result in approximately \$30,000 in additional mobilization costs that will be passed on to the School Division in the cost of the contract. Second, inherent in the contractor's cost is a contingency factor of approximately \$100,000 to cover the future increases in cost of labor and materials for Phase II of the project if it is delayed. Lastly, awarding Phase II of the contract will make available the trailers at Bethel Manor Elementary for the addition/renovation project at Queens Lake Middle School. This will generate savings of over \$52,000 in trailer rental fees because the School Division owns the trailers at Bethel Manor Elementary. Considering the lower mobilization costs, contingency costs, and trailer rental fees, the total savings associated with awarding Phase II of the project within 60 days of the bid opening is estimated at \$182,000.

In order to take advantage of the significant cost savings discussed above the School Board proposes the following funding option for Phase II of the project.

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The School Board anticipates funding from the United States Department of Defense (DOD) FY02 approved budget due to our high impaction of military students. The School Division has received these funds annually since 1991. We received \$620,000 in FY01 DOD funding this fiscal year. The Department of Defense plans to make the FY02 (federal fiscal year) payments in the next several months. In addition, military impacted school districts across the nation are requesting that Congress continue funding for this program in the FY03 DOD budget.

Given the past history of the DOD funding, it is a more viable option for funding Phase II of the Bethel Manor Elementary project. Because of this, the School Board requests that the Board of Supervisors appropriate the \$1.5 million for Phase II of the project from the Revenue Stabilization Reserve Fund. In return, the School Board will agree to reimburse the \$1.5 million with the FY02, FY03, and FY04 DOD payments. This proposal will allow the School Board to take advantage of the cost savings related to not delaying Phase II of the project. This proposal will also minimize the impact on students and staff since the project will be done as one construction project over a shorter period of time.

The School Board will also continue to work with our congressional delegation on obtaining a specific federal appropriation for Phase II. If successful in obtaining a separate federal appropriation, we would then use those funds to reimburse the Revenue Stabilization Reserve Fund.

Thank you for consideration of this request and if I can provide any further information please let me know.

Sincerely

Steven R. Staples
Division Superintendent

pc: School Board Members